

ClaimsWhat is claimed is:

1 1. In a database system wherein a group of users have
2 access to create and edit a plurality of documents stored
3 in the database, a system for periodically clearing the
4 database of stored document replication conflicts
5 comprising:

6 means for storing all documents involved in each of
7 a plurality of replication conflicts;

8 means for defining a prioritized sequence of
9 predetermined attribute values to be applied to
10 distinguish between the stored documents in each of said
11 replication conflicts; and

12 means for periodically applying said sequence of
13 predetermined attribute values to said plurality of
14 replication conflicts to resolve each conflict by
15 eliminating all but one of the documents in said conflict
16 for insufficient value of a predetermined attribute.

1 2. The database system of claim 1 wherein said means for
2 periodically applying said sequence of attribute values
3 include means automatically applying said sequence at
4 predetermined regular time intervals.

1 3. The database system of claim 2 wherein at least some
2 of said stored replication conflicts involve pairs of
3 conflicting documents; and said conflicts are resolved
4 when one of any pair of conflicting documents has an
5 insufficient value of one of said applied sequence of
6 attributes.

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1 8. In a method of creating and editing a plurality of
2 documents by a group of users having access to said
3 documents stored in a database, a method for periodically
4 clearing the database of stored document replication
5 conflicts comprising:

6 for storing all documents involved in each of a
7 plurality of replication conflicts;

8 defining a prioritized sequence of predetermined
9 attribute values to be applied to distinguish between the
10 stored documents in each of said replication conflicts;
11 and

12 periodically applying said sequence of predetermined
13 attribute values to said plurality of replication
14 conflicts to resolve each conflict by eliminating all but
15 one of the documents in said conflict for insufficient
16 value of a predetermined attribute.

1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein said steps of
2 periodically applying said sequence of attribute values
3 automatically applying said sequence at predetermined
4 regular time intervals.

1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein at least some of said
2 stored replication conflicts involve pairs of conflicting
3 documents; and said conflicts are resolved when one of
4 any pair of conflicting documents has an insufficient
5 value of one of said applied sequence of attributes.

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1 11. The method of claim 10 further including the steps
2 of:

3 designating one of each of said stored pairs of
4 conflicting documents as the main document and the other
5 of said pair as the secondary document before said
6 sequence of attribute values are applied.

1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein one of said sequence
2 of attribute values to be applied is that only one of
3 said pair of documents has been modified after one of
4 said pair has been designated as the main document to
5 thereby eliminate said unmodified document of said pair.

1 13. The method of claim 10 wherein one of said sequence
2 of attribute values to be applied is that associated
3 comments have been entered for only one of said pair of
4 documents to thereby eliminate the document of said pair
5 for without associated entered comments.

1 14. The method of claim 10 wherein one of said sequence
2 of attribute values to be applied is that only one of
3 said pair of documents has an associated date to thereby
4 eliminate the document of said pair without an associated
5 date.

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1 15. A computer program having code recorded on a
2 computer readable medium for periodically clearing stored
3 document replication conflicts in a database system
4 wherein a group of users have access to create and edit a
5 plurality of documents stored in said database, said
6 program comprising:

7 means for storing all documents involved in each of
8 a plurality of replication conflicts;

9 means for defining a prioritized sequence of
10 predetermined attribute values to be applied to
11 distinguish between the stored documents in each of said
12 replication conflicts; and

13 means for periodically applying said sequence of
14 predetermined attribute values to said plurality of
15 replication conflicts to resolve each conflict by
16 eliminating all but one of the documents in said conflict
17 for insufficient value of a predetermined attribute.

1 16. The computer program of claim 15 wherein said means
2 for periodically applying said sequence of attribute
3 values include means automatically applying said sequence
4 at predetermined regular time intervals.

1 17. The computer program of claim 16 wherein at least
2 some of said stored replication conflicts involve pairs
3 of conflicting documents; and said conflicts are resolved
4 when one of any pair of conflicting documents has an
5 insufficient value of one of said applied sequence of
6 attributes.

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1 18. The computer program of claim 17 further including:
2 means for designating one of each of said stored
3 pairs of conflicting documents as the main document and
4 the other of said pair as the secondary document before
5 said sequence of attribute values are applied.

1 19. The computer program of claim 18 wherein one of said
2 sequence of attribute values to be applied is that only
3 one of said pair of documents has been modified after one
4 of said pair has been designated as the main document to
5 thereby eliminate said unmodified document of said pair.

1 20. The computer program of claim 17 wherein one of said
2 sequence of attribute values to be applied is that only
3 one of said pair of documents has associated entered
4 comments to thereby eliminate the document of said pair
5 without associated comments.

1 21. The computer program of claim 17 wherein one of said
2 sequence of attribute values to be applied is that only
3 one of said pair of documents has an associated date to
4 thereby eliminate the document of said pair without an
5 associated date.

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